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**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
MASS CASUALTY FORENSICS DEATH INVESTIGATIONS
SEMINAR
OPENING CEREMONY
DETECTIVE TRAINING SCHOOL, CID
RAJARBAG, DHAKA
JULY 23, 2014**

Inspector General of Police Mr. Hassan Mahmood Khandker

Detective Training School Commandant Md. Shahadat Hossain ... I am pleased to be back here again at this wonderful school

Additional Inspector General Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Chief of Criminal Investigation Division

... and all of you students, agents of justice, deliverers of justice

Asalaam 'malaikum, Ramadan Karim, Nameskar, and Good Morning

Justice ...

A simple word ... a common word ...

... but a huge word, a complex word, a critically important word ...

... justice.

Justice is the bedrock of democracy.

In a democracy, the state bears responsibility to deliver justice to its citizens.

Delivering such justice is a difficult task as the state must ensure justice to the victim, to the alleged perpetrator of a crime, and to society as a whole ... all must have confidence in the system of justice.

If the state fails to provide effective justice, then citizens often will lose faith in the justice system and will resort to vigilante justice, when the citizens take the law into their own hands. This, of course, is a breakdown of the justice system and is not compatible with democracy.

This seminar is about strengthening Bangladesh's system of justice so Bangladeshi citizens have ever greater confidence that the state can and will deliver justice.

The delivery of justice is a complex undertaking, as you know best.

Each of you is a critical piece of the process of justice ... each of you – policeman, fireman, forensics specialist, prosecutor, magistrate or judge – each of you fills an important role in delivering justice to the victim, the alleged perpetrator and to society as a whole.

In Bangladesh and throughout South Asia, justice traditionally has relied largely on confessions by the perpetrator. This system invites abuse as the agents of justice have a great incentive to force confessions from alleged perpetrators leading the courts to throw the case out. The result often is a miscarriage of justice for all concerned, thus eroding public confidence in the justice process.

I applaud the Government of Bangladesh's determination to advance the nation's justice system to one based on evidence ... clear, unbiased, straightforward evidence that provides a legitimate basis for convictions and the delivery of justice.

... and that is what this advanced seminar is all about ... evidence ... how to collect, process, and present evidence so it stands up credibly in court, thus protecting the falsely accused while ensuring that the real perpetrators are held accountable, resulting in the delivery of justice to all concerned.

I am so pleased today that some of America's top experts on evidence and forensics are here to share their deep experiences with you. They represent different elements of America's justice system and together they have many decades of experience in delivering effective, credible justice. You will be introduced to them shortly ... I am sure that you will be most impressed by them as I was when I spent time with them earlier in the week.

This seminar is a first in several important ways. It is the first time that all the layers of the Bangladeshi justice system have been brought together at this level to learn together how best to strengthen the system. It is also the first time that America has engaged experts and presenters of this high level to share their experiences, including for the first time the Chief of the Washington DC Medical Examiners' Office, a senior specialized agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and a richly experienced forensics officer from the ICITAP program.

I wish all of you ... policemen and women, firemen and women, forensic specialists, prosecutors, judges ... the very best as you explore together as a team how best to strengthen Bangladesh's system of justice so all citizens have ever greater confidence that the state can deliver timely, fair and impartial justice to all.

Thank you for allowing me to share this moment as we launch this exciting and innovative seminar.

Thank you and Eid Mubarrak a few days early.

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**As prepared for delivery*